

**AP Psychology**  
**Altered Consciousness: the Brain and Drugs**

**Miller**

**Topic:** Altered States of Consciousness

**Page:** R33

**PURPOSE:** Identify the major psychoactive drug categories (e.g. depressants, stimulants) and classify specific drugs, including their psychological and physiological effects; Discuss drug dependence, addiction, tolerance, and withdrawal

1. After you set up page R33 in your notes, including listing the topic above, copy down the following information in your notes:
  - Agonistic Drugs – INCREASE the activity of neurotransmitters in the synapse (usually by binding to receptor sites or blocking reuptake)
  - Antagonistic Drugs – DECREASE the activity of neurotransmitters in the synapse (usually by blocking receptor sites)
2. Next, click the following link  
<http://www.sparknotes.com/psychology/psych101/consciousness/section4.rhtml>  
and scroll down to the section titled **Types of Recreational Drugs**. In your notes jot down any information about the categories of drugs, examples, and drug effects that you are unknowledgeable about already.
3. Next, click the following link  
<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/drugs/index.html>  
and freely explore the resources presented there, ESPECIALLY the demo titled **Explore! Mouse Party** (which allows interactive demonstrations of how drugs interact chemically in the brain). Be sure to jot down explanations of **withdrawal** and **tolerance** as you come across them.